



Quarterly Narrative Report (Q4FY15)

South Haiti Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Management

Agreement #: AID-OFDA-G-15-00064

CRS/Haiti

Sites / Locations: South

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Contact in Haiti:

Contact at Headquarters:

I. Project Highlights and Achievements

As described in the framework of this project, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is targeting the South Department with support to the Departmental Committees for Disaster Risk Management (CDGRD) as per Strategic Objective 1 (SO1): **The emergency preparation and response capacity of the CDGRD of the South Department is strengthened**, as per Strategic Objective 2 (SO2): **Vulnerable communities in the South Department have the information needed to take measures to protect lives and property before, during, and after emergency events**, and Strategic Objective 3 (SO3): **Vulnerable communities in the South Department have reduced their public health and economic risk**.

Key Outputs

During this reporting period, CRS focused on the following activities as outlined in the project Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) submitted with the proposal:

- Logistical support for the EOC consultation in the South and Grand'Anse.
- Conduct a workshop with the CTD and the Incident Command System (ICS) focal point under the coordination of OFDA field staff to plan the Incident Command System consultation workshop and finalize the training calendar on Introduction to EOC and Multi Agency Coordination (MAC), Basic/Intermediate ICS course, and Integrated Planning Section course.
- Provide logistical and human resources support to the CDGRD by updating the departmental contingency plan to respond to emergency events as needed.
- Provide logistical support to the CDGRD staff for the coordination meeting to improve public awareness and disaster preparedness information.
- Identify, verify and register representatives from the South and Grand'Anse Departments' CDGRD structure for the workshops on "Introduction to ICS "
- Incident Command System training.
- In collaboration with the local government authorities, implement small-scale mitigation project activities for infrastructure improvements.
- Produce and disseminate messages on defined actions for emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction for the 2015 hurricane season.

Analysis of Progress

A summary of the progress made against project indicators may be found in the Indicator Progress Tracking Table in Annex 1. The following provides a narrative summary of the activities undertaken this quarter:

A. Recruitment

During this reporting period, as indicated in the previous quarterly report, CRS allocated a Disaster Risk Reduction Program Coordinator; an Emergency Program Manager; a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Project Officer; an Administrative Assistant; and a finance team under the coordination of the Head of Programs; who were all available to support the project. In addition, CRS used the support of an experienced International Development Fellow in the management of the OFDA activities in collaboration with all project staff. For the relevant follow up, all project staff continued to work closely with the local authorities, the CDGRD members and the DPC representatives at the national level to focus on the implementation of an ICS in order to strengthen civil protection structures at the departmental level in the South and Grand'Anse. Also, in order to ensure that all instructions have been made for a good representation of the facilitators, CRS hired consultants for oral translation during the course of trainings.

B. Baseline Study

During this reporting period, CRS continued to use baseline study information to address the needs of the two CDGRDs covered by the project. Most of the gaps identified during the consultation workshop held during the past quarter, have been considered in strengthening capacity of CDGRD members at the departmental level for improved preparedness and response. Gaps include: planning process and methodologies for effective incident and event management, Incident Command System (ICS) and its use in EOC.

In relation to preparedness and disaster mitigation, the drainage system of Les Cayes requires essential improvements. Project staff expect to achieve this goal as the Mayor supports the implementation of the mitigation activities to produce more sustainable results for the community. Specifically, the Mayor coordinated the participation of the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communications (MTPTC), the departmental delegation, CDGRD and City Hall resources to resolve the drainage problems and to reduce the flooding possibility for the current hurricane season.

C. Emergency response logistical and human resources support

During this reporting period, CRS continued to provide logistical and human resources support to the CDGRD to improve preparation for the 2015 hurricane season. Under this activity, CRS supported the CDGRD South to organize monthly meetings with all humanitarian and ministry actors involved in Disaster Risk Reduction. Technical staff and financial support were provided to the CDGRD for the maintenance and fuel for the EOC generator to be operational in the South. Also, CRS responded to the request of the CDGRD in the South to provide catering for participants who attended the meeting to present the draft of the 2015 contingency plan. Additional support was provided for the revision of the contingency plan and mitigation project documents. This support was provided in order to improve the technical skills of the South CDGRD staff. In the same endeavor, CRS submitted tools adapted to the local context to the staff that manages the mitigation project to promote better communication and information transparency.

CRS also provided logistical support for in-country travel from Port au Prince to the Grand'Anse and South Departments to the ICS and DPC teams, procured both written and spoken translation of training materials, provided training venues, training materials, and transport costs for trainees.

D. Emergency Preparedness and DRR Awareness Campaign Messages

During this reporting period, CRS received, analyzed, and revised the proposal document submitted by the CDGRD for the awareness campaign in the South. This campaign provides support to the civil protection structures to inform the population so that they are better prepared for the 2015 hurricane season. Under this

activity, CRS supported and participated in CDGRD workshops, which included other humanitarian actors. In addition, CRS ensured the organization of workshops to identify lessons learned from the 2014 season and to use these lessons to update the contingency plan for the current hurricane season. Technical assistance from CRS to revise communal vulnerability cards was requested since 2014. CRS helped in the preparation of the 18 communal cards which cover the South Department. Because of the passage of Hurricane Erica, a meeting to update contingency stocks for all stakeholders was facilitated with CRS support. The World Bank funded PRGRD project staff took part in this meeting and presented certain constraints faced by municipalities in the South Department. Ideas were generated for better actions for improved emergency preparedness. The PRGRD project staff also facilitated the updating of the municipal emergency plans.

As a prelude to Hurricane Erica passage, CRS program staff supported the CDGRD staff to activate the EOC and attend to the meetings with all humanitarian and government actors. The goal was to continue raising awareness to save lives in the most at risk areas and reestablish communication with key chains responsible at the department level.

As part of the regular program activities with respect to the sub award, CRS provided financial support to the South CDGRD that helped to conduct awareness campaigns. The campaigns were beneficial to the population of the department, specifically to people who live in high risk areas (near the coast and close to rivers). CRS has received positive reports of activities carried out and the reach attained with broadcast messages transmitted via television and radio. Messages were broadcast throughout the 18 communes of the South with wide coverage, gaining awareness in public places and schools.

CRS staff shared the guidelines and strategy for the financial and narrative reports in preparation of the DRR awareness campaign messages for the 2015 hurricane season. This awareness campaign followed the strategy outlined below:

- Conduct radio and television broadcasts to inform the public about all the initiatives implemented to significantly reduce risks to the public.
- Disseminate messages throughout the 2015 hurricane season. The messages will be broadcast in the screen margins of regular television station programming.
- Disseminate/replicate weather bulletins issued by the Center of National Meteorology (CNM), the Permanent Secretariat of Disaster Risk Management (SPGRD) in emergency periods and according to deadlines provided in the Alert Procedures. Based on the protocol signed, interventions will be made directly at the stations according to the outbreak alert level. These agreements will take effect during the next quarter until the end of the 2015 hurricane season with CDGRD participation.
- Organize simulation exercises in order to check the response capacity of committee members to face a potential emergency/disaster. These SIMEXs will simulate flooding and/or hurricane events under the coordination of the CTD with the participation of the communication responsible in the 18 communes in the South.
- Organize recreational activities with groups and sound trucks, mini-conferences, and exhibitions of equipment already pre-positioned in order to allow members of the population to participate and express their satisfaction or concern.

E. Small-scale mitigation project

During this reporting period, CRS transferred funds for small scale project management. Under the leadership of the Departmental Delegate and the Mayor, activities are in progress and the work shows great promise for the city of Les Cayes. Runoff water now flows effectively in drainage canals after the removal of solid waste. CRS hired 96 workers who were grouped into 8 teams of 12 people. These direct beneficiaries were selected from the most affected and at-risk neighborhoods in Les Cayes.

For several years, the town of Les Cayes and its peripheries have faced serious flooding problems linked to poor solid waste management and property damage. Urban areas located downstream of deforested high altitudes have paid the costs of natural disasters.



Table 2: Objective of the mitigation project

Objectives	Results
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Initiate partial cleaning of Reynaud retention pond of 100 linear meters towards the seaside outlet.2. Excavate 2500 linear meters of channel draining the streets; Rues du Peuple (Capital through Prospère Faure), Jean Jacques Acaau, Mgr. Maurice, Kansky and Chateaudain, Rue de l'Union, Cartagena near Moreau, A. Fougere – Guerrier-Moreau, Boulevard (limit Pasteur Pelege), 1ere Grand Rue (Cartegena to Mgr. Maurice) and Rue General Marion through retention Islet.3. Remove 1,500 cubic meters of waste from the channels and dispose of waste off-site.4. Educate communities of the surrounding areas about public health and the risks of disasters related to hydro-meteorological phenomena.5. Install 3 sign-boards that promote positive solid waste management practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 75 linear meters of drainage canal were cleaned at Reynaud• 1800 linear meters has been excavated; Rues du Peuple (Capital through Prospère Faure), Jean Jacques Acaau, Mgr. Maurice, Kansky and Chateaudain, Rue de l'Union, Cartagena near Moreau, A. Fougere• 1050 cubic meters of waste has been removed from the drainage canal.

Collaboration/Coordination

During this reporting period, CRS collaborated with the DPC representatives and the CTDs in the South and Grand'Anse to schedule and implement the Incident Command System consultation plan, and to identify and select the appropriate CDGRD members for participation. To facilitate the interaction between USFS staff and participants, CRS requested translator support to assist the USFS during the ICS workshop consultation visits to the Grand'Anse and the South. The contracted translator consultant deliverables include:

- Translate all documents submitted by OFDA staff into French for use during consultation workshops.

- During the ten-day workshop for the ICS consultation in the Grand'Anse and South on September 21-30, 2015, assist USFS in oral and written translation of interactions with the following structures: CDGRD members in the Grand'Anse and in the South.

F. Training ICS

DPC: Mission in the Grand'Anse and South to identify Master Trainers and Participants

After the launch of the multiannual program to strengthen the capacity of the DPC staff to manage EOCs through the adoption of the Incident Command System (ICS), consultative workshops were organized in the two pilot departments selected for the implementation of the program: the South and Grand'Anse. From August 4th to 7th, 2015, the DPC focal points led a mission to the two departments to properly select participants who were to attend the first formal training sessions. These participants were selected for their capacity to serve as trainer of trainers to ensure the sustainability of the program and its extension in other departments of the country.

The overall objective of the mission was to establish the conditions to host the first ICS training sessions at the EOC of Les Cayes and Jérémie by:

- Identifying Master Trainers for the South and Grand'Anse
- Identifying participants for the next training sessions
- Meeting with leaders of key sectors to discuss the selection of their representative to the ICS program
- Discussing the draft of the document of engagement with key sectors

To achieve this mission, CRS provided technical assistance through DPC staff and logistical support for travel for the concerned CTDs and ICS Focal Points at the national level.

USFS: Training on “Introduction au système de commandement d'intervention, I-100”

The course was held over three days. During the first two days, the theoretical aspects and course practices were addressed and the third day a working session was organized on the continuity of the program. The application of ICS at the Emergency Operations Center was conducted after the final exam.

At both sites, the participants responded promptly and were highly motivated, which allowed for lively sessions. However, responses were not always provided for certain questions asked by participants. Trainers have promised to provide more appropriate responses in future courses.



Table 3: USFS consultation participants

Department	Site	Men	Women	Total
Grand'Anse	Jeremie	21	8	29
South	Cayes	24	8	32

The main topics discussed during these training included:

- ICS Overview

- Basic Features of ICS
- Presentation of common terminology
- Incident Commander and Command Staff Functions
- Registration and Recap
- General Staff Functions
- ICS Facilities
- Common Responsibilities
- ICS in the EOC
- Integration of ICS in Haiti

Under the coordination of Mike Lambright, Program Coordinator, the course was taught by two instructors from the United States Forest Service - International Program (USFS-IP) namely Catherine Scofield and Nancy Floyd with the support of Focal Points of the DPC. The methodology was structured around plenary sessions and group breakout session. Note that at the end of each session, exercises were conducted to facilitate the understanding of participants.

Opportunity

During this reporting period, the coordination support received from the OFDA field office staff facilitated the implementation of the ICS consultation in the South and the Grand'Anse departments in a timely manner. The implementation of the mitigation project has significantly reduced the risk of flooding in insecure areas of the city. According to the Departmental Delegate "the approach of this project has mainly contributed to capacity building of the municipality in the management of solid waste in the city and awareness of a slice of the population in the monitoring and maintenance of canals and drains"

Challenges

During this reporting period, there are no challenges related in the implementation of project activities. However, CRS understands the gap in implementation of the training plan due to other USFS priorities and improvement of logistical support during the course of training.

Key activities for the upcoming quarter

Over the course of the next quarter, in collaboration with the OFDA field office, the ICS focal point for DPC, and the CDGRD; CRS plans to undertake the following activities:

- Continue implementation of the ICS training plan to strengthen the CDGRDs and other stakeholder representatives, as well as volunteers according to the DPC curriculum.
- Schedule two trainings in basic ICS for the months of November and December 2015.
- Provide logistical support to CDGRD staff for a coordination meeting to improve public awareness and disaster preparedness information.

- In collaboration with the local government authorities, finalize small-scale mitigation project activities for infrastructure improvements and flooding risk reduction in Les Cayes during the 2015 hurricane season.
- Produce and disseminate messages on defined actions for emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction until the end of the 2015 hurricane season.